

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, ETRD, SF, MZ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. CHROME ORE
IMPORTING COMPANY TO SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 58256

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DIAMOND SHAMROCK CHEMICAL CORPORATION (CARY BEGUN, GROUP PURCHASING MANAGER; JAMES PATERSON, DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT; AND GEORGE BARBIERI, OPERATIONS MANAGER) PLAN TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEGINNING AUGUST 8 TO DISCUSS PERSISTENT DELAYS IN SHIPPING SOUTH AFRICAN CHROME ORE THROUGH MAPUTO. APPARENTLY THERE ARE SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF ORE ON HAND AT PORT BUT LOADING OPERATION REMAIN SLOW. DIAMOND SHAMROCK'S ORE RESERVES ARE VERY LOW AND COMPANY IS CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING DOMESTIC OPERATIONS IN FACE OF CONTINUING DELAYS IN OBTAIN-
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ING ORE. COMPANY HAS HAD SHIP IN MAPUTO SINCE LATE JULY

BUT CURRENT PROJECTIONS INDICATE SHIP WILL NOT BE LOADED BEFORE MID-SEPTEMBER AND ORE WILL NOT REACH U.S. BEFORE MID-OCTOBER. ONE REASON FOR DELAY, ACCORDING TO COMPANY OFFICIALS IS THE PREFERENCE ACCORDED AT MAPUTO TO IRON ORE AND MAGNETITE ORE SHIPMENTS. AT PRESENT FOUR SHIPS ARE SCHEDULED TO LOAD 300,000 TONS OF IRON ORE BEFORE OTHER

SHIPS CAN TAKE ON CHROME. GENERAL INEFFICIENCY AT PORT CONSTITUTES OTHER REASON GIVEN FOR DELAYS.

2. FOR JOHANNESBURG: DIAMOND SHAMROCK REPRESENTATIVES WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH MINERALS OFFICER SWEETWOOD AND COMMERCIAL OFFICER KIRBY ON TUESDAY AUGUST 10 AT 11:00 A.M. OR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 11 AT 4:00 P.M. IF POSSIBLE. PLEASE ADVISE BY PRIORITY CABLE IF EITHER OF THESE TIMES IS CONVENIENT.

3. FOR MAPUTO: WHILE COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES NOT RPT NOT PLANNING TO VISIT MAPUTO ON THIS TRIP DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF REPORT MENTIONED IN PARA 1 OF CONTINUING DELAYS IN LOADING CHROME ORE AT MAPUTO. KISSINGER

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